

REMARKS

The Final Rejection mailed February 24, 2004, has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the application is believed to place it into condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Final Rejection and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

At the outset, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6, 30 and 52.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-29, 31-51 and 53-54 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been rendered moot by the cancellation of those claims in the present Amendment. The Applicants reserve the right to present those claims in a continuing or continuation-in-part application to be filed.

The Applicants further submit that the present Amendment overcomes the objection to claims 6, 30 and 52 by rewriting those claims in independent form, including the limitations of the respective independent claims and of any intervening claims. Thus, those claims are plainly in condition for allowance.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds of objection and rejection have been overcome and that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. Notice of such allowance is respectfully solicited.

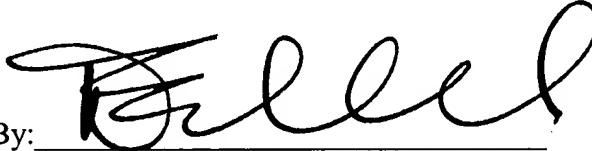
In the event there are any questions relating to this Response or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

PATENT
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: 115354.00107

Please charge any shortage of fees or credit any overpayment thereof to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (115354-00107). In the event that a separate Petition for an Extension of Time is required to render this submission timely and either does not accompany this Response or is insufficient to render this Response timely, the Applicants herewith petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

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